

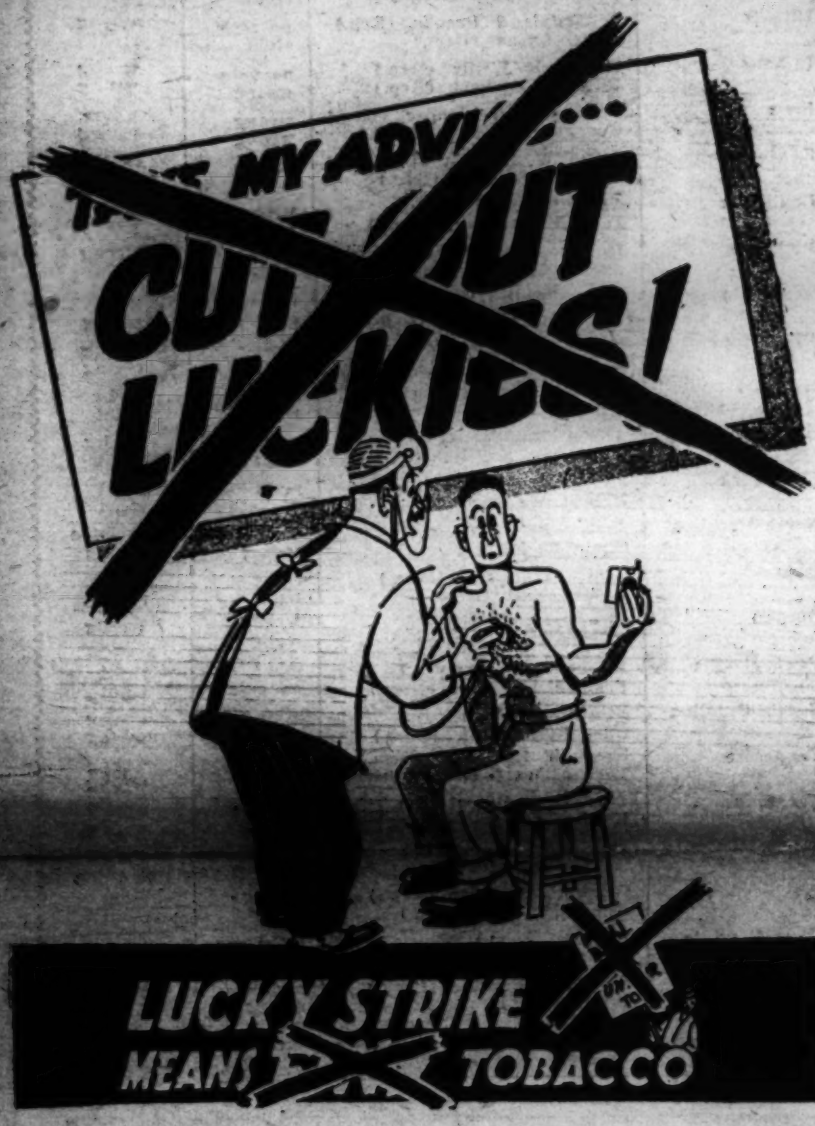
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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VI, No. 8 April 15, 1946 68 Price 5 Cents



California Cannery Workers picket California Processors and Growers offices in Oakland last week while their rank and file negotiating committee negotiates on the demand for an 18.5c increase.

FTA, CIO Hit At AFL's Finagling

(See Page 3)

San Jose, Calif. — "Sweet-heart" agreements signed by the AFL Teamsters and the cannery bosses will be disregarded by FTA as "an open and deliberate violation of the law," the FTA Cannery Council said here March 31.

The Council will "take any and every step necessary — including various forms of properly timed economic action — to protect the legal rights of all cannery workers."

At the same time, the national CIO announced in Washington through President Murray and Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey that the FTA would have full CIO support in its fight to

bring organization to the cannery workers.

Similar support for the FTA's fight against AFL gangsterism and employer finagling was reaffirmed by the California CIO Council, meeting in Los Angeles at the same time that the Cannery Council was meeting in San Jose.

The Council, attended by 60 delegates, representing 10 FTA locals in Oroville, Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto, Selma-Visalia, Contra Costa, Oakland, Hayward, Sunnyvale and San Jose, also telegraphed the National Labor Relations Board demanding that the Board seek immediate Federal court injunctions to prevent or set aside any such contract with the AFL.

The Council said it would also

demand a contract for its workers, "as authorized by the National Labor Relations Board," and would continue to seek an immediate 18½c wage increase.

The delegates said that FTA workers would refuse to pay dues to the AFL and would insist on the right to build their own union, present grievances and demand recognition of their committees, and would file charges with the NLRB on all individual violations of these rights.

Charging that any exclusive contract between the Teamsters and the industry would be collusive, the Council said that such moves are intended not to obtain production but to help the AFL win the scheduled industry-wide cannery election "by force and intimidation."

Strike's Won

'Luckies' Off Fink List In FTA-CIO Victory

(See Page 3)

The six months long strike of FTA workers at the American Tobacco Company's three plants in Philadelphia, Charleston, S.C., and Trenton, N.J. is over, with "one of the outstanding victories in the tobacco industry."

The strike, which began last October 15, enlisted nation-wide support from CIO and other progressive organizations, and was marked by a number of unsuccessful company attempts to crack FTA picketlines in the three cities involved.

Final victory was won by "the solidarity and courage of the strikers" and by the support they received, Lewis Bentzley, vice-president of FTA and the regional director of the Middle Atlantic area of the union said when the settlement was ratified.

"A grand group of workers has won one of the outstanding victories in the tobacco industry," Bentzley said. "It ends a two-year fight for a contract with American Tobacco, and will go far to setting a pattern for the industry throughout the nation."

"The Negro people of all three

cities should be especially commended for their unwavering support and solidarity throughout the strike."

Settlement Terms

Settlement terms include a 12c an hour raise for all workers now getting less than \$1 an hour (eight cents in Charleston), and 15% for all workers getting above \$1 an hour.

Workers making Roi Tan cigars will get \$1.40 per 1,000, with \$1.87½ per 1,000 for those making Cremos. Time and a half will be paid for all hours in excess of eight in any one day, with 40 hours the basic work week. Four hours call-in pay will be paid, whether the time is worked or not.

Six paid holidays per year were

(Continued on Page 3)



We Need a 65c Minimum Wage these four veterans, members of Local 22, told President Truman in an interview on March 26. They urged him and their Congressmen to do everything possible to secure passage of the Pepper 65-75c Minimum Wage Bill without the crippling amendments now in the phoney "compromise" Senate version. "The boys who served in the armed forces know that Congress is letting 'em down. We got a lot of promises in the army that aren't being kept," they told the President. Shown leaving the White House on their way to call on their Congressmen, are (l. to r.) Clarence Anderson, W. C. Ledford, J. Henry Minor and Marcellus Penn.



FROM WASHINGTON

Hypocrisy In The Senate

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

A majority of the U.S. Senate stands convicted of complete hypocrisy and disregard for the welfare of the working people. This is the story of how they turned the 65-75 cent minimum wage bill, written to protect the living standards of the lowest paid workers and workers who do not now have wage-hour protection, into a weapon to reduce the standards of living of all workers.

The joker in the minimum wage bill passed by the Senate is the Pace amendment. This amendment has nothing in the world to do with giving low paid workers a living wage. Instead it raises food prices 15 to 20 percent. According to Chester Bowles, it would make a shambles of price control.

Naturally, the small farmer who works for a living himself would not be in on the gravy train. The 10 percent of the farmers who produce 54 percent of all farm products would get away with most of the profit.

This amendment adds the cost of agricultural labor into the parity price guaranteed by the government for farm products (thus raising prices), but it does not provide any minimum wage for agricultural workers. Never has the arrogant power of the Republican-polltax Democrat combination which goes by the name of "farm bloc" been more clearly seen.

While the Pace amendment was being discussed, Senator Barkley, the Democratic majority leader, stated that the President would veto the bill if this amendment was put on it. This was the signal for the farm bloc, led by Senator Russell of Georgia, a Democrat, to let out a rebel yell against "dictatorship" and pass the amendment, 43-31.

Utmost in Hypocrisy

With the utmost hypocrisy many of these men claimed they were "for a 65 cent minimum." And some of them voted for it—after the Pace amendment was twice passed, and then only because they had been told that the bill would be vetoed in this form.

Trying to save something of the bill, its supporters, led by Senator Pepper went to Senator Taft of

Ohio, the Republican boss of the Senate. Taft said he would swing enough Republican votes to defeat the Pace amendment if Senator Pepper and his backers would vote for a flat 60c wage without removing the area of production, overtime and other exemptions.

Taft insisted that this proposal be voted on first. But after Senators Pepper, Tunnell and others reluctantly voted for 60 cents and nothing more, Taft either could not or did not swing enough votes and the Pace amendment passed again, 46 to 38.

The farm bloc was riding high. Even with the Pace amendment in, they refused to take the food processing exemptions out of the Wage Hour Act. They arrogantly made the area of production exemption worse than it is now by dictating that the Secretary of Agriculture instead of the Wage Hour Administrator should define the exemption. Since the food industry bosses run the Department of Agriculture, this means that more workers would be without wage-hour protection than ever before.

Senator Wiley (R) of Wisconsin made this amendment. Remember him. He said Senator Taft had intended to do it but at the last minute Taft passed it to Wiley.

A few more weakening amendments were passed. Then Senator Capehart (R) of Indiana, who had voted for the Pace amendment, proposed a vote on a 65 cent minimum. It passed, and many who

voted for 65 cents and the Pace amendment will try to say they are for both farmers and labor. This is a lie. Anyone who voted for the Pace amendment is against a minimum wage bill.

Fight Just Beginning

The bill now goes to the House where the chances of saving it as a piece of legislation in this Congress are not very good. But the fight is just beginning. Every member of the House of Representatives is up for election. Primary elections are about to begin.

The fight for the minimum bill is part of the fight for a decent Congress in '46. We must battle every inch of the way in the House, put every congressman on record for or against the original Pepper bill and fight out the campaigns on the basis of their votes.

FTA Wins At Lorillard, 56-6

Lancaster, Pa.—An NLRB election held at the P. Lorillard tobacco plant here April 8 resulted in overwhelming victory for Local 638. The vote was 56 for FTA; 6 for AFL; and 26 for no union.

Andrew Dotterman, Secy.-Treas. of Local 638 led the organizing drive. Contract demands will be drawn up shortly by the P. Lorillard workers.

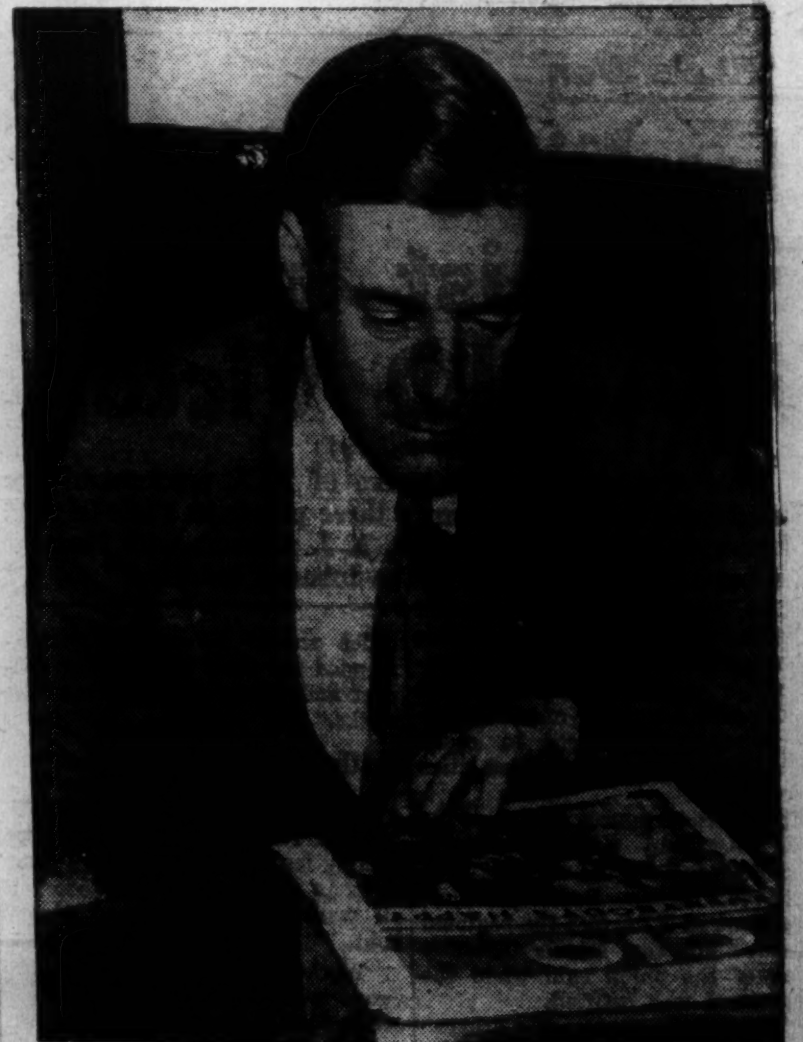
How They Voted

(See From Washington, this page)

This is how the Senators from FTA states voted on the inflationary Pace amendment to the 65-75c wage bill that made a mockery of the measure last week.

"Wrong" indicates a vote for the amendments and against the full 65-75c proposal. "Right" indicates a vote against the amendments and for the 65-75c rate. No Vote indicates that the Senator did not vote. There were two votes on the issue.

State	Senators	First Vote	Second Vote
Arizona	Carl Hayden (Dem.) Ernest McFarland (Dem.)	wrong wrong	right wrong
Arkansas	John McClellan (Dem.) J. Wm. Fulbright (Dem.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
California	Sheridan Downey (Dem.) Thomas J. Knowland (Rep.)	no vote right	right right
Colorado	Edwin C. Johnson (Dem.) Eugene Milliken (Rep.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
Connecticut	Thomas Hart (Rep.) Brian McMahon (Dem.)	wrong no vote	right right
Florida	Charles Andrews (Dem.) Claude Pepper (Dem.)	no vote right	no vote right
Illinois	C. Wayland Brooks (Rep.) Scott Lucas (Dem.)	no vote right	wrong right
Indiana	Raymond Willis (Rep.) Homer Capehart (Rep.)	no vote wrong	wrong wrong
Iowa	Bourke Hickenlooper (Rep.) George A. Wilson (Rep.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
Kentucky	Alben W. Barkley (Dem.) Wm. A. Stanford (Rep.)	right wrong	right wrong
Louisiana	Allen Ellender (Dem.) John H. Overton (Dem.)	wrong wrong	right wrong
Michigan	Homer Ferguson (Rep.) Arthur H. Vandenberg (Rep.)	right right	wrong right
Minnesota	Joseph Ball (Rep.) Henrik Shipstead (Rep.)	wrong wrong	right wrong
Mississippi	Theodore Bilbo (Dem.) James O. Eastland (Dem.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
Missouri	Frank Briggs (Dem.) Forrest Donnell (Rep.)	right right	right right
New Jersey	Albert Hawkes (Rep.) Alexander Smith (Rep.)	no vote right	wrong right
New York	James Mead (Dem.) Robert Wagner (Dem.)	right no vote	right right
North Carolina	Josiah Bailey (Dem.) Clyde R. Hoey (Dem.)	wrong wrong	no vote wrong
Ohio	James Huffman (Dem.) Robert Taft (Rep.)	right right	right right
Oregon	Guy Cordon (Rep.) Wayne Morse (Rep.)	wrong right	wrong right
Pennsylvania	Joseph Guffey (Dem.) Francis J. Myers (Dem.)	right no vote	right right
South Carolina	Olin Johnston (Dem.) Burnet Maybank (Dem.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
Tennessee	Kenneth McKellar (Dem.) Tom Stewart (Dem.)	wrong wrong	wrong wrong
Texas	Tom Connally (Dem.) W. Lee O'Daniel (Dem.)	no vote wrong	wrong wrong
Virginia	Harry F. Byrd (Dem.) Carlier Glass (Dem.)	no vote no vote	no vote no vote
Washington	Warren Magnuson (Dem.) Hugh Mitchell (Dem.)	no vote right	right right
West Virginia	Kilgore (Dem.) Revercomb (Rep.)	right wrong	no vote right
Wisconsin	Robert LaFollette (Prog.) Wiley (Rep.)	right wrong	right wrong



NEW EDITOR: C. W. Fowler, new Editor of FTA NEWS and Publicity Director of the international union, comes to FTA from the national office of CIO, where he was Assistant Publicity Director and Assistant Editor of The CIO News for the past nine years.

FTA NEWS

'Lucky' To Get By FTA Reveals Reign Of On Less Than 65c Terror In Little Rock

(See picture page 1, "From Washington," page 2)

By FRANK HARGROVE, Regional Director

Washington, D.C.—"We're just lucky nobody's been sick in my family since I was discharged from the army last September. I have no reserve, and I don't know myself how I get by with four dependents on \$20 a week." That's what Marcellus Penn told President Truman when he and three other FTA veterans flew to Washington on March 26 from Winston-Salem, N.C., to tell the President and their Congressmen that their fellow workers at the Camels cigarette plant need and demand a 65c minimum wage.

Pointing out that the majority of more than 10,000 workers at the R. J. Reynolds plant make less than 65c an hour, they urged passage of the Pepper 65-75c minimum wage bill without crippling amendments.

The vets, Clarence Anderson, W. C. Ledford, J. Henry Minor and Penn, members of Local 22, were flown to Washington in a chartered plane for a 10-minute interview with the President, arranged by the union and the National Committee for a Fair Minimum Wage.

"The boys who served in the armed forces know that Congress is letting 'em down," Anderson told Truman. "We got a lot of promises in the army that aren't being kept."

"I don't make ends meet," he added. "I make 52c an hour—\$31 a week. I'm married and have three children, and another on the way. How do I do it? I pay one bill this week, and another next week. I don't know what I'll do if they cut us back to the 40-hour week."

\$20 A Week

Penn, who does the same cleaning job as Anderson, with less overtime, said, "what they pre-

mised us when we went into the service is short of what we're getting."

Minor and Ledford, who make 83c and 79c an hour respectively, pointed out that it was tough enough to get along on their wages, let alone on the much lower wages which their fellow workers average.

"I'm going to have to borrow money," Ledford declared. "The house needs painting. My wife is sick and the doctor's bills take a lot of our money." Ledford's back after 11 months in the Pacific.

Senate Sellout

President Truman, reminding the group that he had asked for passage of the measure in Congress, advised the vets to convince their Congressmen of the need for the 65c floor on wages. He expressed hope, too, that its coverage would be as broad as possible.

NOTE: The interview with Truman took place before the Senate sell-out knocking the 65c minimum down to 60c and denying coverage to food workers and others now excluded.

Leaving the White House, the delegates called on their Senators, Josiah Bailey and Clyde Hoey. Bailey pompously declared that he doesn't believe that the "federal government should meddle in the affairs of the states." Hoey is going to vote against the bill to "protect the interests of the widows and the orphans owning stock in the R. J. Reynolds Co."

Their visit to Representative John Folger won his promise to vote for the bill.

Little Rock, Ark.—The story of a reign of terror, of beatings and of a possible murder in the drive of the Southern Cotton Oil Company (a subsidiary of Wesson & Snowdrift Co.) against Negro workers who were trying to keep their union together was revealed here this week by members of Local 98 of the FTA-CIO.

The Union has been on strike at this plant since December 17. On March 19 three members were sentenced to one year in the state penitentiary for violation of the Christian-American sponsored "Anti-Violence Law" because they happened to be peacefully picketing the plant two blocks away when a scab murdered their fellow striker, Walter Campbell. The union is appealing this case. The murderer has been set free.

The signed affidavits made public today, however, reveal that this kind of violence and terror is no new thing. Union members told stories of many beatings and of one mysterious, unsolved murder at this same plant.

The man upon whose head the responsibility for these outrages rests is Roy Castillow, about 35 years old, 200 pound native of Greenville, Mississippi, and the plant superintendent.

In October, 1945 (the union lawyers have not as yet been able to ascertain the exact date) the body of Willie Lewis, an employee, was found in the hull shed of the plant by Leo Butler and another worker.

Three days before the body was found, Lewis and Castillow had held a heated argument. Lewis' hand had been badly mangled in an accident in the plant. He had been home recuperating for about a month. He returned to the plant to talk with Castillow about receiving his compensation—the Southern Cotton Oil Company are

self-insurers—and the argument followed.

Lewis' body was buried the same day it was found, according to employees at the plant. The coroner, Dr. Howard A. Dishongh, and the prosecuting attorney, Sam Robinson, had examined the body and returned the report of death from assault. Lewis, they said, had been killed some place else and his body had been removed to the hull shed. They judged that he had been dead three days.

The workers who cleaned up the hull shed afterwards, however reported finding the floor saturated with blood which would seem to indicate that Lewis had not been killed away from the property.

The workers also found Lewis' pocketbook in the trash can at the plant some two weeks after the murder. Since they report that the can is regularly emptied, finding the pocketbook would seem to indicate that someone in the plant had been keeping it.

A few days after the murder when the workers began taking up a collection in the plant to finance an investigation, Castillow stopped them, saying that the company would take care of the matter. The case rested there.

McKinley Wilson, formerly a worker at the plant, tells of a beating he received at the hands of Castillow last October. Wilson and one other employee was asked to do a job that usually requires four men. Wilson refused. That was when Castillow approached him with doubled fists. But Wilson had a hoe in his hands and he threatened to use it if Castillow tried any violence. So Castillow turned and went back into the office. Wilson left the plant thinking he might return with a gun.

The beating occurred the next day when Wilson returned to the plant to receive his pay.

"I came back to the plant the next day to get my money and Castillow came up to me and asked why I drew that hoe on him. I told him that I had quit the company and did not want

any trouble with him. I turned to walk away and he grabbed me, ran his hand into my pocket, took out my knife and hit me with it knocking me down.

"Then he jumped on me and kept beating me. He cut me badly and broke one tooth. Finally he turned to one of the workers and told him to get me out of there before he killed me."

That's the story as Wilson told it. It is estimated by the workers that Castillow has beaten at least 10 workers in the past two years.

Jack Jackson, another of the workers, said that Castillow had disciplined him by locking him in a store room for six hours.

According to a statement signed by Walter Jackson, Castillow celebrated V-J Day by coming into the plant and telling the workers that the war was over and that he didn't have to take anything from any of them any longer (an exact quote of his words is not printable).

In closing his V-J Day speech, he said, "We did think we would have to sign a union contract, but now we can sign it if we want to—but we won't sign it if we don't want to."

A Strikers' Defense Committee, at 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, is conducting a campaign to raise funds for the necessary appeals and investigations. Georgia Morris is Secretary of the group.

Note by the writer: The foregoing story did not come easily from the workers. They are very evidently afraid of men like Castillow and what may happen to them if they dare to expose him and other labor hating strong-arm men of employers. Several other workers at this plant told of being brow beaten and abused by Castillow, but would not permit the use of their names in print. These men who live in fear of their lives in order to establish a union and gain improvements over such working conditions as told in this story, are a credit to the labor movement and deserve the support of all right thinking people.

Congratulates Senator Murray For Defense Of National Health Bill

Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane warmly praised the action of Senator James E. Murray (D., Mont.) recently for throwing Senator Robert Taft (R., Ohio) out of the Senate Labor Committee-room. The fracas, which ended in the bum's rush for Taft,

started when he interrupted the Committee hearing on the Wagner-Murray-Dingell national health bill to red-bait the measure.

"Far too long have men like Senator Taft been permitted to obstruct needed social legislation such as the national health bill, by shouting 'socialist' or 'communist' at such bills and their sponsors," Lane said in his letter to Senator Murray.

"As an Ohioan, and as an official of a union with many members in that state, I am writing to congratulate you on your forthright action in at least temporarily silencing the raucously reactionary voice of Senator Taft," Lane said.

"The FTA, representing thousands of workers in need of a national health program, will support you to the limit in your fight to secure serious and thoughtful consideration of this measure, despite the opposition of heartless Tories like Senator Taft."

Chief opposition to the bill comes from the reactionary American Medical Association, traditional foe of health insurance. Sen. Taft (R., Ohio) gave voice to the AMA viewpoint when he called the bill "socialistic" and finally stalked from the committee room, stating that he would boycott the proceedings.

The CIO and AFL have both backed the bill and are testifying in its favor, as are other people's fraternal and community organizations throughout the nation.



LANE

CIO Publicity Judged "Tops"

CIO's national publicity, in radio, newspapers, The CIO News, pamphlets, etc., won the top award of the American Public Relations Assn. for "outstanding public relations accomplishments in 1945" this week.

The citation, presented to CIO Publicity Director Len De Caux, praised the "ingenuity" and "unusual technique" of the CIO's presentation of its case on wage increases, organizing drives, strikes etc. before the general public.

Working For Peanuts? Planters Co. Isn't

Employees of the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company of Suffolk, Virginia, are tired of working for peanuts. As negotiations for a new contract begin, Local 26 is demanding a 25c per hour wage increase—to put an end to substandard pay in the plant.

Can Planters afford such an increase? Well, look at the facts:

- In the last four years, the company's profits before income taxes have averaged 605% higher than in the four prewar years—or \$3,876,000 as compared with \$549,000.
- Profits after taxes averaged \$960,000 during the last four years, compared to an average of \$425,000 in the prewar period—an increase of 126%.
- During the war, the company's financial position got a strong shot in the arm. Net worth, that is, the total value of the business, increased by nearly 50% between 1939 and 1945. Total assets increased one and one half times over the same period, rising from \$6,000,000 to more than \$15,000,000.
- If the company does the same amount of business in 1946 as it did last year, it should make

EXTRA profits approximately equal to the \$3,713,000 excess profits tax paid to the Federal government last year. (And business is expected to be good.)

- The company has installed a considerable amount of new machinery during the war, as a result of which the productivity of the workers has increased. This should enable the company to pay higher wages without affecting profits.
- The wholesale prices of peanut products have soared during the war. Peanut butter went up 153% between Jan. 1941 and Dec. 1945. Edible peanut oil shot up 105% during the same period. By contrast, wages of the company's workers have risen only a small fraction.

A 25c per hour raise for the 2,500 employees of Planters in Suffolk would be only \$1,300,000 a year on a 40-hour week.

Can Planters afford to raise wages? Well, look...

FTA news

Published twice a month from September to July inclusive and monthly in August at 838 Greenwich Street New York 14, N. Y. by the

TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA CIO

affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations

1806 Race Street Philadelphia 2, Pa. (Address all communications to Philadelphia office.)

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Editor: C. W. Fowler

Subscription:
\$1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter December 30, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

NEXT ISSUE: Material must be in by 9 a.m., April 18.

Vol. VI, No. 3 April 15, 1946



LEAVING: After two years as Editor of FTA NEWS, Bertie Selden is leaving this week. She will take a well-earned vacation and come back to work for FTA in the field. Officers and staff of FTA wish her a good rest and the best of luck.

Salmon Locals Set For Strike

By Prudencio P. Mori, President Local 7

Seattle, Wash.—Secretary of Labor Schwollenbach notified the FTA Northwest Regional office that the 30-day "cooling-off" period for a strike against the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., will expire on April 20.

The notification came in response to the union's request for an NLRB strike vote among the members of the six salmon canning locals: Local 7, Seattle, Wash.; and Alaska locals 222 in Petersburg; 237, Ketchikan; 263, Hoonah; 269, Juneau; and 264, Seldovia.

Incomplete returns on the union's own strike vote show a unanimous approval by the members of Local 7 in Seattle; Portland, Ore.; San Francisco and Stockton, Calif. Returns from the Alaska locals are not yet in as we go to press.

Principal issue in the dispute is the refusal of the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc. to negotiate the union's demands.

"During the entire war period there was not one work stoppage in our industry," a statement from the Regional Office said. "Now that the war is over we are attempting to correct

the sub-standard wages which have existed in this industry since the old slavery days. "In spite of our repeated attempts to meet with the industry and jointly work out a solution to this dispute, the Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc. refuses to discuss any of the issues involved.

"The industry originally offered us a 9% increase over last year. Since the time that the union notified them that this offer is unacceptable, they have refused to discuss any measures which might lead to an amicable settlement of this dispute.

"The union will refuse to dispatch any men to work in the canned salmon operation until such time as the industry agrees to meet and negotiate with us."

Present minimum wage in the canneries is \$144.45 per month for the two months of the season. The union is asking for a 30% increase and a 40-hour week.

Get 95c At Knox, Union Shop In Ellis

By Anthony Valentino, Business Agent, Local 80

Camden, N.J.—A 95c minimum hourly wage was established at the Kind and Knox plant when Local 80 won a 16c across-the-board increase in negotiations on a reopening wage clause. Five cents of the increase went into effect last October.

At the Ellis Can plant, the Local won a new contract providing for union shop

payment of Negotiating Committee members for time lost in negotiations; and break down of premium daily from a weekly basis. The question of wages remains open for future discussion.

Local 80 won an arbitration case recently which does away with the quota policy of the Campbell Soup Company. The Arbitrator ruled that any mechanic who performs 50% of class "A" work for more than half of his working period shall receive class "A" wages. Formerly under the quota policy the company would not up-grade second class mechanics or pay them first class rates unless there existed openings within a certain quota of first class men.

PAC activities in Local 80 are moving into full swing with the local's initiation of a campaign to draft Dr. Frank Kingdon for Governor of New Jersey. Kingdon, head of the New Jersey Citizens PAC and noted radio commentator, is receiving similar support from trade unions in all parts of the State.

The PAC Committee recently visited Camden's Mayor Brunner to demand conversion of the Government war housing projects into low-income housing projects. As a result, the City Commissioners sent a resolution embodying the local's demands to the Federal Government. The delegation from the local consisted of Robert

Woolley, Anthony Valentino, John Verderosa and Benjamin Butler.

Fight for Price Control

Another delegation was sent to Washington to participate in the CIO conference to save the Price Control Act. Anna Magee and Elsie Bonner represented the local.

Local 80's delegate to the National Win the Peace Conference in Washington April 5 to 7 was Chief Steward Benjamin Butler.

Michael Gallo, an overseas veteran, is signing up Local 80 veterans for the newly chartered Labor Legion Post for trade union veterans of World War II. Mike reports that the response has been fine.

Demand Funds For FEPC

Washington, D. C. — Restore the powers of the Fair Employment Practices Committee to enforce "the right to work of all minorities," the CIO and the National Negro Congress have urged President Truman.

The CIO's demand for FEPC funds was made in a letter by President Murray to Truman, in which he warned that denial of funds now "would represent a tremendous step backward in the struggle to extend and strengthen our democracy."

The NNC asked the President to issue directives restoring the powers of the FEPC, and to request appropriations for it when the Appropriations Bill comes up before Congress.

Revels Clayton, executive secretary of the NNC, announced that fair employment practices will be one of the key questions to be discussed at the 10th anniversary convention of the National Negro Congress in Detroit, May 30th. More than 1000 nationally prominent Negro and white delegates from 48 states, are expected to attend. The convention will sound the call for a nation-wide drive to deliver "a death blow to Jim Crow."

Strike Threat Brings Quick Shipper Action

Phoenix, Ariz. — In the face of a threatened strike, some 30 shippers in the Salt River Valley area signed a uniform agreement with Local 78. A hurried, but lengthy meeting of lettuce shippers the day before operations began, resulted in breaking the employers' united front against the agreement.

A 15% wage increase, elimination of wage inequities in various areas, union shop, union preference and improved seniority, are some of the provisions in the new agreement which covers more than 130 California and Yuma, Ariz., vegetable and melon shippers.

When the Salt River Valley shippers walked out on negotiations, the Local 78 Strike Strategy Committee began to lay plans for a strike with the support of the AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods.

Teamsters and the local AFL Council not only gave complete support, but the Teamsters' Business Agent called three shippers to tell them that no ice would be delivered for the duration of the strike. Quite a contrast to Teamster tactics in the Northern California canneries!

All Now Signed

All shippers now operating have signed, and as fast as they start operations, other shippers are signing.

The industry-wide union shop is having amazing results, with members who have been delinquent for 2 and 3 years paying up back dues and reinstatement fees.

After three years of struggle, Local 78 has finally achieved a position of union security which enable it to consolidate and expand its bargaining rights throughout the Central Valley area of California.

Local 78 is watching with interest the FTA struggle in the canneries where victory will mean a real shot in the arm for the organizing campaign among the thousands of unorganized packing-shed workers.

WIN AMERICAN

(Continued from Page 1)

won, with double-time pay if the holidays are worked.

There will be no discrimination against strikers, and grievance machinery will be set up to take care of all beefs not ironed out by shop stewards.

The union also won maintenance of membership, under which present members of the union must remain in, unless they voluntarily withdraw within seven days from ratification of the contract.

Finally, the contract runs from April 9, 1946, to April 9, 1947, with a no-strike, no-lockout clause for the life of the agreement.

The contract, which was ratified unanimously in a series of Local 186 meetings in Philadelphia, Trenton and Charleston, thus ends the longest strike in recent years in the tobacco industry and one of the longest major strikes in trade union history.

Hunger, company provocations, attempts to break picketlines and attempts to slip over company union tactics were all turned back by the workers involved.

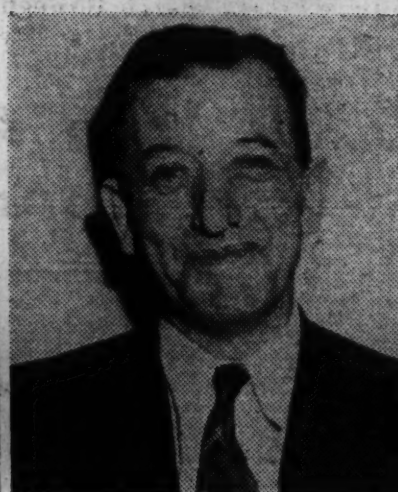
"Tough Fight But We Won It"



"We won our strike by beating the pavements for six months," says Ida Jefferson, cigarmaker, in commenting on the FTA victory that ended the six months long strike at American Tobacco plants in Philadelphia, Charleston, S.C. and Trenton, N.J. "We got a raise from \$1.19 to \$1.40 per 1,000 on the cigars I make.



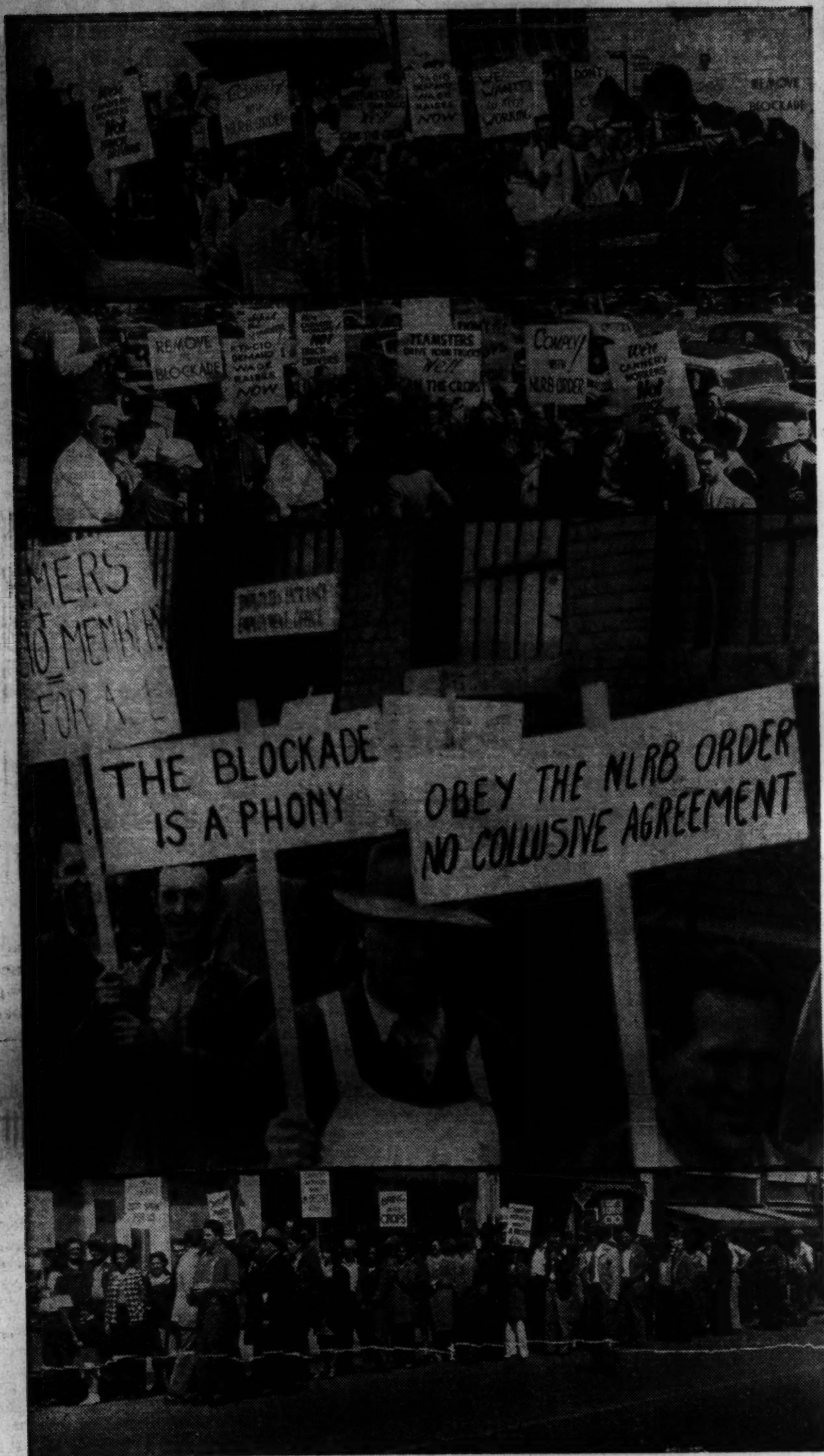
"It's good to get back to work after a long tough strike," is the way Josephine Pozzuto, cigarmaker, put it when she approved of the contract with American Tobacco Co. giving a general raise of 12 cents an hour and other important gains. "We stuck together and we won," Mrs. Pozzuto added.



"It's been a damn long battle, but we had them anyhow" is how Wilbert Strickler, American Tobacco Co. mechanic, put his feelings about the strike. "We'll do better next time. Our mechanic's rate of \$1.61 an hour shows that it pays to stick together in a strong union like we have in FTA-CIO."



"I'm glad the strike is over and the girls are going back to work" says Eleanor Smith, American Tobacco Co. stripper. "I'd like a chance to tell the bosses what I think of their making us stay out on the picketline for those six months before they'd sign a contract and give us a raise."



MORE THAN 1,000 cannery workers are shown in these pictures demonstrating in northern California against "honeymoon" contracts between the AFL Teamsters and the employers. At top, Oakland, Calif., FTA members demonstrate before Gerber's. In center, Sacramento Local 77 workers parade past Libby plant. (President Ted Neff at right.) Below, Sunnyvale workers march through the town asking AFL workers to join them in fight for 18.5c wage raises for all. Teamsters refused to come along.

Big Wage Gains Won At Lord Mott By New Baltimore Cannery Local

By Harold Kotzger, International Organizer

Baltimore, Md.—Over \$100,000 in yearly wage increases, retroactive pay, sound seniority provisions, paid vacations, call-in pay and other gains, were won for the workers at the Lord Mott cannery with the signing of Local 87's first contract with the Company. It is the first FTA con-

tract in the area. Further details of the victory will appear in the next issue of the News.

"Every member must be a union builder," is the slogan of FTA members, here who just received their official charter as Local 87. The newly-chartered local includes FTA members who work at the Lord Mott and Gibbs-Booth canneries.

Chapelle Hudson and Hester Dixon were elected acting president and acting secretary, respectively, until elections for permanent officers are held around the end of April.

While many of the members are

busy at work signing up new members and fixing up their recently acquired union hall, the Local sent Rosalie Tyler and Antonio Lopez as delegates to the Maryland PAC Conference on April 7. Judson McDaniels was the Local's delegate to the Council of Churches' Labor-Consumer Conference on April 9.

Charter members of the local are: Nathan Brown, Jr., Lucinda Clark, Grace Franklin, Ethel Haynes, Mary Haynes, Chapelle Hudson, Antonio Lopez, Judson McDaniels, Frederick Tibbs and Payton Waller.

Correction

In the March 15 FTA News we listed a back pay check paid to Local 155 member George Belveal as amounting to \$2.39. The amount should have been \$52.39. Apologies to Brother Belveal and to his local.

Stop War Talk, Say Tri-State FTA Delegates

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Stinging attacks on Winston Churchill, as a peddler of World War III propaganda, were made by delegates from three states attending the quarterly meeting of the FTA Tri-State Regional Council meeting here April 6 and 7.

The delegates also condemned Tennessee officials involved in the Columbia race incident as imitators of Nazi terror, and urged protection of the people's welfare on the wage, housing and price control fronts.

Plans for coordinating the activities of the region and participating in the million-dollar CIO campaign to organize the unorganized workers in the South also were discussed during the two-day meeting. Local unions in Winston-Salem and Charlotte, N. C.; Charleston, S. C., and Richmond and Suffolk, Va., were present at the sessions.

"The reactionary tory party of England is the instrument of an imperialistic ruling class which lives by oppressing and exploiting the people of India and many other colonial countries and forcibly depriving them of liberty and their democratic rights," the delegates declared in a resolution adopted after lengthy discussion.

Leads to War

The resolution pointed out that Churchill's campaign for an American-British alliance directed against the Soviet Union is intended as a means of maintaining British exploitation of colonial countries, and "leads directly toward a disastrous third World War," aimed at preserving present conditions of oppression and halting the growing movement for democracy and national liberty all over the world.

Another resolution praised Senator Claude Pepper for his stand in Congress "exposing the sham and hypocrisy" with which a crisis in the United Nations Security Council was provoked by Churchill and U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes, in order to hide an imperialistic plot for control of oil in Iran.

Comparing the destruction of the Columbia, Tenn., Negro community by state guardsmen to the way Nazi storm troopers terrorized minority groups and labor organizations in Germany, the resolution against lynch terror declared that the Tennessee incident was not a "race riot" between citizens of different color, but was "a deliberate attack of the ruling class on the civil and democratic rights of a section of the population, carried out on orders from above by organized hoodlums wearing the uniform of authority."

Aroused Action Needed

It said that "the same machine gun muzzles" will be directed soon against Union members, regardless of race, unless there is aroused action on the part of all democratic individuals and organizations to condemn such use of terror and force by reactionary governing officials in the South.

Other resolutions, besides those to promote the peoples' welfare through a 65c minimum wage bill, better housing programs, and strong federal price control, included an outline of the CIO program for veterans' rights; demands for a permanent FEPC and continued federal operation of the United States Employment Service; and a strong criticism of President Truman's recent statement which attempted to weaken the drive for poll-tax repeal by labeling it as a matter for the states to handle.

Win 15c Increase At Cal Pak Cannery

Rochelle and DeKalb, Ill.—A 15c hourly increase for regular employees and a 12½c hourly increase for seasonal workers was won by Locals 17 and 18 in a new contract just signed with the California Packing Corp. The increase was made effective as of March 1, with 10c being retroactive for all employees to last December 31.

Other gains included a better check-off system, improved grievance structure, and an inequality and inequity clause providing for adjustment of job classifications.

Regional Director Jack Fox did a fine job in assisting in the negotiations, according to Local 18 Chief Steward Enoch Kittle.

Additional Raises Won At Cargill's

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—Wage increases ranging from 7c to 18c an hour were won by Local 110 in a new contract just negotiated with Cargill, Inc., grain processing plant. The increase came in addition to a 5c increase which went into effect last fall.

Another principle gain made was job classifications, according to Int. Org. Jack Sparks. Other gains include 6 paid holidays, strict seniority in filling job vacancies, and an improved grievance procedure ending in arbitration.

Wages Up 25c At Hawthorne Melody

Whitewater, Wis.—Wage increases for the workers at the Hawthorne Melody dairy plant totaled 25c an hour since V-J Day, when Local 236 won another 7½c an hour increase recently. Local President George West headed the Negotiating Committee.

Since 1941, the workers at this plant have won an 87½% increase in wages through their union.

7.5c Wage Raise In California Compress

Bakersfield, Calif.—A supplement agreement negotiated by Local 2722 and the San Joaquin Compress and Warehouse Company won a 7½c hourly increase for the workers, effective February 18. Basic pay rates now range from 88c an hour to \$1.08 an hour for all classifications.

The wage increases were made possible by negotiations under a wage reopening clause in the contract signed last September.



New Officers

68 Saginaw, Mich.—Newly elected officers of Local 68 are: Robert Wirsing, Pres.; Frank Nickel, Vice-Pres.; Ella Welzein, Rec. Secy.; and Russell Lauer, Fin. Secy.

Meeting

NORTHEASTERN Regional Council meeting: The next meeting of the Northeastern Regional Council will be held on Sunday, April 28, at 10 a. m. Place: Hungarian Hall, Genesee and Hudson Streets, Trenton, N. J.



CIO CANNERY COUNCIL delegates show their demands for an 18.5c an hour raise to California Processors and Growers press agent Eric Cullenward, the smiling character in the middle. A few minutes after this shot was taken, the committee went in to see the big boys. Left to right: Council President Fred Less, Frank Cabral, Del Toulouse, Cullenward, William Dennis, Floyd Leach, Russel Clark and Charles Becker.

Labor's World

Pepper Speaks Up

Out of the welter of Soviet Union baiting now coming out of the United Nations meeting and covering acres of newspaper space, Senator Claude A. Pepper (D. Fla.) spoke up this week in some plain talk on the danger of World War III.

Pepper's speech, made on the Senate floor, was a blistering attack especially on British hypocrisy in loudly proclaiming "freedom for everyone in the world" while actually they are only for "freedom for every Englishman."

He also lashed out at U. S. foreign policy, now dangerously close to a build-up for a new world war, declaring:

"All I want to see is that the U. S. does not become the guarantor of British imperialism. Today that is what we are doing. We do not need the Churchillian compact with Britain. Every time there is an international conference it is the British-American twins that perform that function."

"Inevitably that will lead to an anti-British-American bloc in the rest of the world. So far as I am concerned, I am not going to vote for conscription or war appropriations if we are going to use the forces we have to broaden and perpetuate the British status-quo which exists in the world today; and if Secretary of State Byrnes means what he says—that he does

not want us to maintain the status quo—he had better change his policy or his actions will belie his words."

"It was easy to gang up on the Russians while the czars were fighting the people with their perfidious policies and police. It was easy to gang up on the Russians during the days of the revolution. It has been easy for the rest of us to gang up on them since. I don't want to be a party to such a process."

Czech Land Reform

Over 7.4 million acres of land formerly owned by Germans and by native Czech aristocrats have been distributed by the Czech government, Allied Labor News reports from Prague.

Aim of the program, ALN reports, is to end a condition in which almost 700,000 peasants and farm workers were without land, while 70% of the farmers in the country owned less than 15% of the total usable farm and forest land.

Such programs, it should be noted, will go a long way toward relieving European food shortages in the future. The immediate need for food in Europe and Asia remains as great as ever, though such land reform undertaken in progressive countries such as Czechoslovakia, Poland, etc., will help to prevent similar famines in the years to come.

FTA In Drive To Block War III

Washington, D. C.—The danger of a third World War is upon us. The people of this nation must band together to prevent such a catastrophe!

This was the challenge the Win the Peace Conference flung to the country last week.

Sponsored by 23 Congressmen and more than 200 prominent citizens, the Conference met here April 5 for four days of discussion and work. Some 712 delegates, coming from 27 states and representing 81 national organizations drafted a Win the Peace program and voted to set up a National Committee to Win the Peace and local committees in every community.

FTA delegates at the Conference included Armando Ramirez, Elizabeth Sasuly and Bertie Selden, representing the International; Local 22 by delegates Moranda Smith, Robert Black and Gene Pratt; Local 75 by delegate Roger Adams; and Local 80 by delegate Benjamin Butler.

Only political action and constant pressure from the people can insure the peace, the Confer-

ence declared. The delegates adopted a program calling for:

A democratic American foreign policy, including:

Unity of the Big Three—friendship with the Soviet Union and Great Britain; freedom for colonial peoples; destruction of every last remnant of Fascism, especially in Spain and Argentina;

Full employment and true democracy at home; control by the United Nations Security Council of the atom bomb.

"War is a danger which can be avoided only if that unity of the Big Three molded by Franklin D. Roosevelt is not lost," Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) told the Conference.

As Co-Chairmen of the National Committee to Win the Peace, the Conference elected Col. Evans Carlson of the U. S. Marines, leader of the famous Raider battalions, and Paul Robeson, internationally famous Negro singer and leader.

The organizations represented at the Conference included trade unions, veterans' groups, church, youth, women's, Negro and nationality groups.

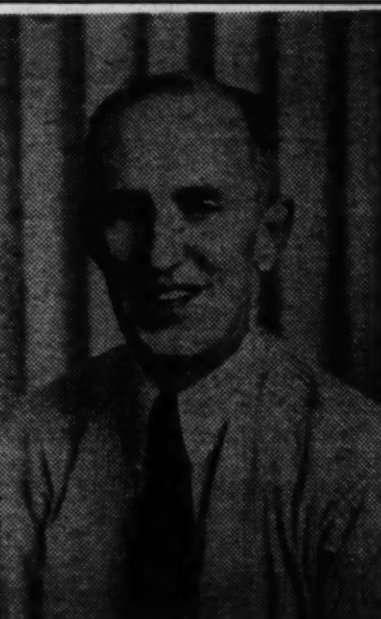
Map Drive For 15,000 Members In Mid-West

Win 16-23c Increases

Harvey, La.—Following close on the heels of a wage victory at the Swift Refinery plant here, Local 309 scored another 16c hourly general wage raise at the Penick and Ford plant, and a 16c to 23c increase at the Swift Fertilizer plant.

The first two wage adjustments at Swift Refinery and at Penick and Ford were negotiated across the board, while the Swift Fertilizer raise was won with the signing of a new contract. The Swift Fertilizer increase is considered the best in the whole area.

As a result of the unprecedented gains won, the Local membership has soared to over 400 members, according to Int. Rep. Albert O'Brien.



Tommy Troy, member of Local 110, Cedar Rapids, Ia., where he works in the Quaker Oats Co., has a reputation as a forecaster of basketball games. Troy won a national prize in a contest when he out-predicted more than 5,000 contestants from all over the U.S.

FIGHT UN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE

New York, N. Y.—Charging that the Rankin Committee on Un-American Activities "is attempting to persecute all people who want a democratic way of life," the Veterans Against Discrimination began a petition campaign recently, aimed at abolishing the Un-American Committee.

The petition campaign is the veterans' answer to an attack made on the VAD by Ernie Adamson, Chief Counsel of the Rankin Committee. "This country was not organized as a democracy," Adamson told the VAD.

The credo of the VAD is a statement made by General George C. Marshall to discharged servicemen:

"Start being a leader as soon as you put on your civilian clothes. If you see intolerance and hate, speak out against them. Make your individual voices heard, not for selfish things, but for honor and decency among men, for the rights of all peoples."

Each signature on the petitions is a bullet aimed at fascism, the VAD declared, calling upon trade unions to participate in the campaign to abolish the Rankin Committee.

Milwaukee, Wis.—At a conference of FTA local presidents in the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Upper Michigan Region held here on March 17, plans for the formation of a Regional Council were mapped out to facilitate the organizing of over 15,000 unorganized food and tobacco workers in the region.

Delegates to the conference represented Local 236, Whitewater, Wis.; 448, La Crosse, Wis.; 495, Carrollville, Wis.; 339, Plymouth, Wis.; 492, Minneapolis, Minn.; 24, Bloomer, Wis.; 175, Eau Claire, Wis.; and 59, Rochester, Minn.

Points of organizational concentration are to be in Green Bay, Wis.; in the Wisconsin canneries from Plymouth to South Beaver dam; and territory in and around Rochester, Minn.

In addition, delegates wholeheartedly endorsed the wage program outlined at the FTA International Executive Board last January, including: 25c hourly wage increases; 65c minimum wage;

equal pay for equal work; time and a half pay for over eight hours a day and 40-hour week regardless of exemptions under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

They also ask two weeks per year paid sick leave; two weeks vacation per year and vacation for seasonal workers on a pro-rated basis; 7 paid annual holidays; double time for holidays worked; 10c per hour premium late shift work; two paid 15-minute rest periods daily; and a yearly wage re-opening clause.

Within 90 days a draft constitution is to be drawn up for a Regional Council and a call will be sent out to all locals for a regional constitutional convention.

600 Strike In California To Up 45c Hour Rate

By O. H. Johnston, Business Agent, Local 25

Fullerton, Calif.—The 600 workers of the Hunt cannery here are on strike for a living wage. All during the war they were true to their no-strike pledge, although they got as little as 45c an hour for women piece-workers and 70c for men.

Since last June Local 25 has tried to get an increase. But when the WLB finally granted a small raise in September, the company refused to pay it.

The union is demanding a minimum of 85c for all women workers and 95c for men. We are asking for the same overtime rates that prevail in the northern canneries—time and a quarter after eight hours, time and a half after 10 hours, and double time after 12 hours.

More than half the men in the plant are veterans. And most of them made more in the service than they earn at Hunt's.

Hunt's managed to buy six more canneries during the war. In these canneries, wages are exactly what Local 25 is demanding here. The company gets the same price for its products whether packed north or south.

It costs just as much to live in Fullerton and Anaheim as it does in San Jose or Hayward. It takes

just as much skill and hard work to pack a can of spinach or peaches or tomatoes down here as it does up North. But the company refuses to pay equal wages.

Open Shop Stronghold

Orange County is one of the last strongholds of the open shop in California. In this fight, Local 25 has the active and wholehearted support of the Oil Workers, the Fishermen, the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, and the other CIO groups in Orange County.

The company has thus far refused to meet with the union. Conciliator Earl J. Ruddy is endeavoring to get a meeting at the earliest possible date.

Despite the fact that Hunt workers belong to Local 25 100%, the AFL Teamsters are passing through our picket lines and trying to sign a "sweetheart" agreement with the company.



HOW SCABS LOOK from a horse's viewpoint is shown in this candid shot of a supervisor named Dobbins crashing a CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers picketline at a struck Westinghouse plant in Newark. Cop helped the scab through.

SALTY PEANUT CO.



"Well—we always said we'd work for peanuts before we went back in the Army."

Training For Leadership

Following is an open letter from FTA Education Director Connie Anderson bringing to you a direct report on the FTA Leadership Training School program and how the schools can help you.

Dear FTA Member:

We, in FTA, know that a strong, healthy, democratic union depends on the ability and strength of local union leaders. FTA is grounded in the democratic participation of every member in your local's fighting program to improve conditions through the contract, good grievance settlements, political action and in the struggle for world peace. It takes good leadership to develop such locals — and that's where the FTA Leadership Training Schools come in.

Once a year in each region of the U. S., FTA runs one-week leadership training schools for local union delegates. The schools are a place where the membership can send its leaders to spend a week learning more about FTA and how to carry on union work. Delegates work hard, taking part in class room discussions, and hearing lectures for a good part of each day. We hold the schools in country places so that delegates can relax after a day's work.

Wage Problems

This year the locals all face the problem of getting wage increases, the question of jobs, of fighting for the rights of returning veterans and of organizing the unorganized. Your local can get assistance in these problems by sending delegates to school.

Because shop stewards and grievance procedure are the heart of the local, it is especially

important that your chief shop steward or grievance committee chairman attend.

Southern locals have all received the call to the school which will be held the last week in April at Highlander Folk School, Mt. Eagle, Tenn. Calls will be sent as soon as final arrangements can be made for the mid-west and eastern schools to be held at the end of June and early in July.

Everybody's Business

When the call comes through to the membership meeting, that call is the business of every member. It is the members who must vote to spend the money to send one or several of their best union people for the week's schooling. Where locals have small treasuries, the members roll up their sleeves to raise the money, through raffles or other means.

We are proud in FTA that we are all together working for a bigger and stronger union grounded in the ability of the leaders in the shops to understand and lead the union. That's what counts. And that's why FTA believes in leadership training schools.

If you have questions, please write to me.



Passage of Pepper 65-75c Minimum Wage Bill

was first on the list of demands when these four delegates from FTA locals in Virginia lobbied in Washington. (l. to r.) Amanda Jackson, Local 26, Suffolk; Evetta Hamp, 57, Richmond; Flossie Jones, 26; and Charles McClaihorne, 57; visited the office of Senator Harry F. Byrd and saw Representative J. Vaughn Gary. They also urged extension of OPA and passage of the anti-poll tax bill. Byrd's office refused to commit the Senator.

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

Food Industry Profits

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

Business is good in the food industries. Figures recently issued by OPA show that food processors have done very well for themselves out of the war.

Their profits before taxes were 239% higher in 1944 than in the last four prewar

years 1936-39. Sales were up 99%. Even after paying the high wartime taxes, profits were 56% higher than before the war.

The OPA figures cover 415 companies which manufactured ten billion dollars' worth of food products in 1944, including canned goods and grain, dairy, confectionery, bakery, meat, and sugar products.

The rate of profit on net worth, which indicates how much money a company is making on the capital invested in the business, was three times as great in 1944 as in 1936-39, or 24% compared to 8%.

Figures on profits before taxes for the different food industries are as follows:

Industry	Profits as percentage of net worth	1936-39 (average)	1944
Fruit & Veg.			
Canning	350	7.4	24.4
Fish Canning	226	5.5	15.4
Dairy Products	310	10.4	33.0
Flour Milling	191	7.1	18.3
Cereal Products	40	17.6	23.9
Bakery Products	154	10.2	27.7
Confectionery	182	17.2	40.5
Meat Products	357	4.1	24.9
Sugar Products	119	6.0	12.2
Total	239	7.8	23.8

Answering the claim which is often made that only big compa-

nies have made money during the war, the figures show that profits of small companies went up 500% compared to a rise of 232% for large companies and 267% for middle-sized firms. Profits of small canners went up 7,015%!

Here are the figures by industry:

Industry	Small companies	Medium-sized companies	Large companies
Fruit, Veg. & Fish	7,015	366	270
Dairy	348	157	321
Grain	239	124	96
Bakery	287	284	141
Confectionery	268	446	141
Meat	50	302	564
Sugar		150	113

In contrast to this enormous rise in profits, Government figures show that straight-time hourly earnings of food workers increased only 39% during the same period, and their basic hourly wage rates have risen only 15.4% since January 1941. At the same time a 50% rise in the cost of living has more than wiped out these wage gains. This gives a pretty good idea as to who has gotten rich out of the war.

Food companies have held on to a large part of their war profits by salting away large sums in the form of increased assets and additions to surplus and other reserves. For instance, the Securities & Exchange Commission reports that the net working capital (the amount of cash and other assets available for immediate use in running the business) of 80 food manufacturing firms increased by \$400,000,000, or 50%, between December 1939 and June 1945.

As for the future, it is generally agreed that the food business will be profitable for at least the next two years. Wall Street thinks so, for the average of common stocks of food manufacturing companies is 40% higher now than it was a year ago.

With no excess profits taxes to pay this year and with sales continuing just as high as during the war, profits of most companies stand to be larger in 1946 than ever before.

In view of these facts, employers can well afford to meet the wage demands of their employees, especially since wages are a minor item in food processing costs. According to the latest census, wages account for only 8.6% of the value of food products to the manufacturer.

No Grievance, He Says—Until Steward Steps In

By Connie Anderson, Education Director

When and where should a grievance be taken up? As soon as a grievance arises, it should be taken up immediately by the steward with the foreman.

Companies fighting the union will stall and try to discourage the stewards from acting. Smaller companies will try to persuade the local to have all grievances taken

up by the grievance committee at a weekly or bi-monthly meeting with management.

But good grievance settlement calls for quick action by the steward, or grievance committee member, right in the department where it arises. There are exceptions to this rule. If a steward is not clear on what is involved, he may have to discuss the situation first with other union officers. There should also be consultation before action on grievances which will affect workers in other departments.

In most cases, however, immediate action by the steward is the key to militant unionism in the plant.

An example of a militant steward and of a militant local is the story of a grievance handled by Benjamin Davis, Local 194 steward in the potato and carrot department at the Chicago Campbell Soup plant. Davis enforced his right to take up a grievance even though the company tried to fire him.

"Not A Grievance"

On February 5, Davis took up the grievance of four men who were told to double up and do twice as much work on their jobs of servicing the preparation job. The foreman told him it was not a grievance and ordered them back to work.

"Do you know who you're talking to?" Davis replied. "I'm the steward of this department, and I expect you to entertain this grievance. It is our right to take up grievances under section 8 of the contract."

While 100 anxious women

watched, the men were led out by company guards. At the employment office they were told to go home and come back in the morning to "talk the matter over."

Since Davis could not reach the chief's op steward, he called Local 194 President Johnny Gallacher on the phone at the union office. Over at the union office, the day stewards' council meeting was just breaking up at 7:45 p.m. The 50 stewards decided to stick around, supper or no supper, and see the thing through.

Gallacher and chief day steward George Sansbury went right over to the plant, but were told by the superintendent that they would take the grievance up tomorrow.

"That grievance will be taken up now, like it's meant to be," Gallacher replied. "Those men will work tonight. You're breaking the contract."

What! No Dinner?

From the union office, Gallacher got the plant manager on the phone. The manager complained and stalled. His dinner was interrupted. But when he heard the stewards shouting, he changed his tune. "Sounds like you've got a crowd there," he said. "That's right," Gallacher answered. "All the day stewards are waiting for your answer."

Finally, a call came from the superintendent for the men to come back to work. A stewards committee went along with them to make sure the guards kept hands off. They were welcomed back to the department by the excited workers.

One girl said with wonder

"when a guard took you out of the plant, brother, I thought you were fired." Now she and the others had seen with their own eyes how the union fought such browbeating.

At 11:30 p.m. the day stewards left the union hall, hungry but satisfied with the vital lesson they learned.

Next day, at a meeting between management, grievance committee and Local 194 Business Manager Paul Gardner, the union's terms were met. All foremen are to be instructed to listen to grievances; guards are not to put hands on stewards; and the question of firing these men was dropped.

In the next issue we will discuss why many companies resist having grievances taken up at the first step.

Comments and stories from the members are welcome. Thanks to Veronica Kryzan, Fin. Secy. of Local 194 for the above story.

First Locals Sign For School

The first locals to send in registrations for the Southern Leadership Training School are Local 26 in Suffolk, Va., and Local 182 in Port Gibson, Miss.

Mrs. Zilphia Lewis, member of the Negotiating Committee, is the Local 26 delegate, with John Ward as alternate. Neal Kelly, Shop Steward, was chosen by Local 182.

SECURITY

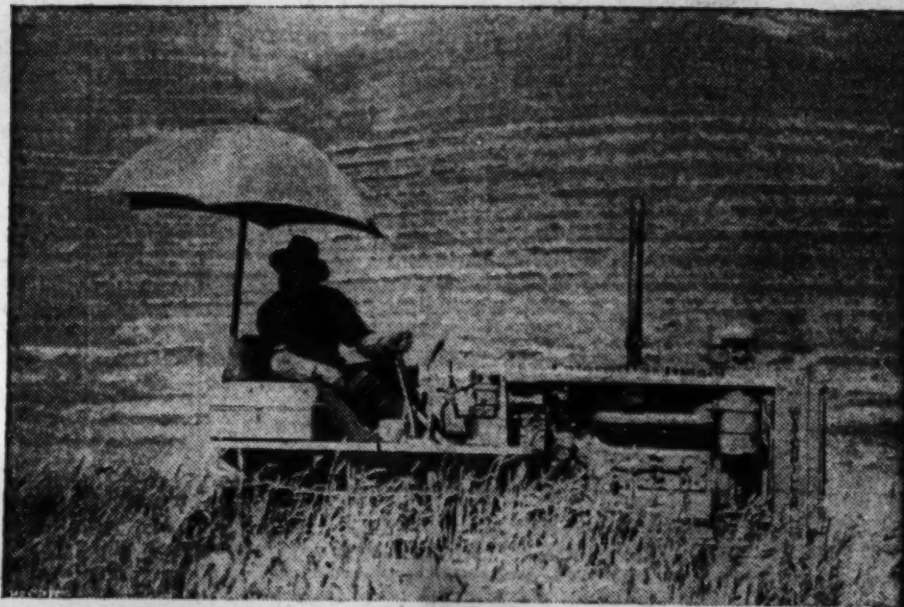
In CHILDHOOD
During WORKING YEARS
In OLD AGE

THE WAGNER-MURRAY-DINGELL SOCIAL SECURITY BILL is one of the most important pieces of legislation to be proposed in Congress in recent years. It is meant "to provide for the national security, health and public welfare." For nearly 3 years it has lain around our legislative halls. Some months ago the original bill was revised and improved. Meanwhile the Congressional Ways and Means Committee has started hearings on possible amendments to the Social Security Act, dealing with old age and survivors' insurance, public assistance and unemployment compensation. Separate bills have been introduced on health, mental health, hospital construction and the USES. Everything possible must be done to influence Congress to pass this legislation. The New Bill contains the following main provisions:

COVERAGE is very extensive. All employees of private industry and business are included, as are agricultural and domestic workers. State and local government employees not having their own retirement systems may be covered by voluntary agreement. The self-employed, including farmers, are covered except, of course, for unemployment and temporary disability. Veterans are covered and get "wage credits" of \$160 per month for length of military service, without pay deductions.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, based on a nation-wide system, would be paid for at least 26 weeks. Some of the best provisions developed under the present hodge-podge of state systems are included in this bill. Insurance benefits for workers with dependents may reach \$30 a week.

U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, organized on a permanent national basis, would insure just and equal treatment for displaced workers and would coordinate public employment office practice to meet changing labor requirements in various geographical centers.



Above: Agricultural workers and self-employed farmers would be newly protected.

Below: The U. S. Employment Service would insure equal treatment for all workers.



THE Story of Labor

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE "FOREIGNERS" THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO UNITED STATES TODAY. ONLY THE INDIANS CAN BRAG ABOUT BEING REAL "NATIVE" AMERICANS. THE REST CAME FROM EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD... FOLLOWED EVERY RELIGIOUS BELIEF. HAD EVERY COLOR OF SKIN.

WE SHOULD GLORY IN THESE FACTS FOR THE NEW WORLD WELCOMED ALL, AND FUSED THEM IN ITS MELTING POT TO MAKE A NEW PEOPLE... THE AMERICANS!

THEY CAME HERE TO ESCAPE OLD WORLD PERSECUTIONS BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL BELIEFS, TO ESCAPE POVERTY AND CLASS DISTINCTIONS AS IMMIGRANTS AND SONS OF IMMIGRANTS. THEY FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC SECURITY. NO ONE RACE, NO ONE RELIGION, HAD A MONOPOLY IN THE FIGHT. THEY ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO MAKE AMERICA THE "PROMISED LAND." TAKE THE IRISH... FOR EXAMPLE...

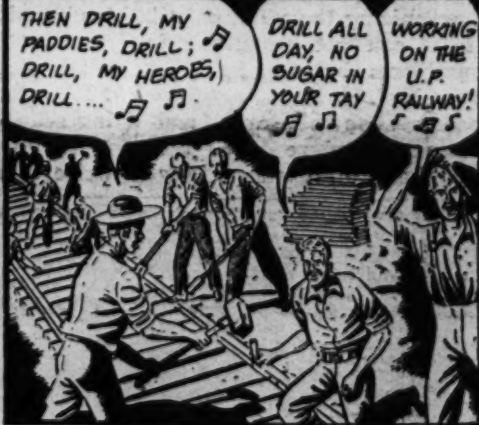
IRELAND IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY WAS AN UNHAPPY LAND. POTATO FAMINES WERE FREQUENT...



THE IRISH WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO JOIN UNIONS IN 1833 THE GENERAL TRADES UNION OF N.Y.C. WAS FORMED...



THE IRISH HELPED BUILD AMERICAN RAILROADS... LIKE THE UNION-PACIFIC...



TODAY, 1945, IRISH LABOR LEADERS RANK HIGH...

